

I made my appointment for a tourist visa in April, but the actual appointment is in May? Do I still need the new online form or can I just walk with the paper copies?

NicVic in Cocorite

We received many questions about the online application, so we are grateful for this opportunity to clarify this issue and some others: the online application (DS-160) has been required for ALL visa applicants since May 1, 2010. Even if you made your appointment before May 1, you still must use the DS-160.

Some of those filling out the form indicated that it has taken as long as an hour to answer all of the questions so be prepared to spend some time on your application. Also, after completing the first screen of the application form, save your form to a file and give it a unique name. That way as you continue to complete information on the form and click the "Save" button, your personal file will be continuously updated. In addition, doing this means that if you don't have time to finish or need to gather more information then you can just log back in to the DS-160 and pick up where you left off. If you do not click "Save," then you will need to start over. If you do log off, then you must save the application on the computer you are using. This means that when you log back into the application that you must use the same computer, otherwise you will not be able to access your saved information.

When you have entered all of the requisite information you will be taken to a Confirmation page to submit your application. Then you will be allowed to print your application's confirmation sheet. The confirmation sheet has your unique barcode which you need to make a visa appointment. Please note that you do not need to print the entire application, just the confirmation page. If you come to the Embassy without the confirmation form, you will be turned away and not allowed to return until you complete the DS-160 and produce a confirmation.

The DS-160 also gives you the option of uploading a digital image for your application photo. Not all photographs will meet the requirements, so if you cannot successfully upload a photo in the DS-160, you may still submit your application form but you will also need to bring one passport photo with you to your interview. If you bring a photo, make sure it is 2x2 inches on a white background and that your ears are visible. Please do not wear glasses, hats, or anything else that would obstruct the view of your face.

While most of our applicants are able to use the DS-160 without any problems, some are experiencing difficulties. So if you have questions then you may visit our website at <http://trinidad.usembassy.gov>, send us an email at ConsularPOS@state.gov, or call us between 2pm and 3pm on weekdays at 622-6371.